CU Cradle2Career
Pathways to Success for Every Student

Goal Team Monthly Report
Goal Team: Workforce Readiness

1. Team progress since the last report

**The 6-8 Grade team met on May 23 and the following is an update
on that meeting:**

Denise reviewed the Target Skills needed as identified by local employers:

Basic Math/Reading
Personal Accountability: Prompt, timely, integrity
Communication Skills
Critical Thinking

The group decided how we are going to accomplish teaching these skills:

1. **Committee Goal:** A community workforce ready learning "ecosystem" that includes schools, providers, businesses, and families.

2. **How to achieve the goal:**
   a. Work with the schools and providers to identify:
      i. What current programming is proven by data to be successful in addressing the target skills.
      ii. What are the gaps in successfully addressing the target skills? Determine programs to address these gaps.
   b. Schools and providers agreeing to work together to identify 2-3 common measurements that each school and organization can do to measure success in addressing the target skills, and then also share their results with the committee.
   c. Work as a team with the schools, providers, employers, and families.
      i. Consider community programs in comparison to national research. What methods best address the target skills?
      ii. Identify common barriers that we could address and overcome.
      iii. What is working? Enhance and scale up these programs to reach the students who are not being reached.

   Done to date:
   a. Decide on CTR through career exploration and awareness and social emotional skill strategies.
   b. Analyzed project-based learning and its significant impact on the target skills.
   c. Recognized the need to tie career awareness and exploration to local job need and growth areas:
      Computer (IT), trades, healthcare, etc.

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d. Determined, per Anita Foss inquiry with the mentor coordinator, that the student applications for mentors do not include a place for the student to share their career interests. The coordinator is open to revising the application and would love to come speak at one of our meetings.

e. Determined that the need for mentors, in particular industries, is tremendous. Note: It was mentioned that mentoring is more than just career advice, it is relationship building and gaining trust, and needs to be a 12 month commitment, even touching base in the summer months.

The group has divided into sub groups to tackle getting information:

a. Meet with providers: Charles, Corey, Javaé, Denise
   i. Review questions/answer survey to make sure we didn't miss anything.
   ii. Interview more on-site after school providers (Splash in Urbana and who else missing?)

b. Meet with schools: Carol, Amanda, Robert
   i. Develop questions, could be similar to provider questions already identified.
   ii. Who should be included to provide feedback on the questions? Note: Denise has a meeting with Urbana Middle School, invited committee to join if they want.
   iii. Determine best way to meet and gather information.

c. Determine local career/job current and future needs: Nick, Mindy
   i. EFE to provide feedback on what types of jobs/careers are needed now and projected.
   ii. Chamber of Commerce to reach out to businesses for feedback on what the needs are for employers.
   iii. EDC to provide feedback.

Fall Summit
a. It was decided that we would hold a meeting to discuss all of the findings and strategize for implementation late October/early November. Date to be determined.

Youth Employment Sub-Committee met on May 8 and the following are highlights from that meeting:

CUC2C Vision: A thriving community where every child achieves and every graduate succeeds.

Work Force Readiness Goal: Every student is trained to be workforce ready.

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Work Force Readiness Consensus Definition: The workforce ready student has the academic foundation, technical ability, work habits, and interpersonal skills to succeed.

The group discussed what is "Youth Employment" and identified categories of YE and ideas of how to accomplish each and what students would learn.

Category: Career Prep
  Idea: Resume reviewing, job shadowing, peer and career mentors, mock interviews, 21st century skills, portfolio development, in-school enterprises
Category: Career Awareness
  Idea: Volunteerism, career fair, job shadowing, informational interviews, career camp
Category: Soft Skills Development
Category: Career Advising
  Idea: Online/Email Advising, career guidance counselors, career mentors, peer mentors
Category: Co-Curricular
  Idea: Internships, dual credit, trades
Category: Family Engagement and Support
  Idea: Encouragement, transportation, document assistance/supply
Category: Volunteerism
  Idea: Responsibility, accountability
Category: Weekend/After School Jobs/Summer Jobs
  Idea: responsibility, accountability

The participants also did an exercise to find out what they know, what they think they know, and what they want to know about Youth Employment. Everyone wrote down their thoughts and these answers will give the group direction.

The committee has sent a permanent time for the monthly meetings:
The last Wednesday of each month, from 3:30-5:00 pm, at the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce conference room.